COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SIGNIFICANT FORCE INCIDENT EVALUATION

UNIT: Palmdale Station
DATE: May 3, 2009 (Sunday)
TIME: 0025 hours
LOCATION: 20th Street East and Avenue S, Palmdale, Ca.
URN#: **009-07253-2608-461**
IAB#: **SH2242904**

NATURE OF INCIDENT: On May 3, 2009 at approximately 0025 hours, Deputy Anthony Paez, while off-duty, had just completed his regularly scheduled shift at Palmdale Station and was driving home. He was in his personal vehicle driving South on 25th Street East, approaching East Avenue S, in the City of Palmdale. As Deputy Paez approached the intersection he observed Williams standing near the North/West corner aggressively pointing at passing motorists what appeared to be a small caliber handgun. Several motorists, out of apparent fear and shock, initiated aggressive swerves and lane changes in an effort to avoid Williams' line of fire. Deputy Paez drove his vehicle into the parking area of a gasoline station on the South/East corner of the intersection and utilized his personal cellular phone to call Palmdale Station, reporting a suspect brandishing a firearm at motorists. Paez followed Williams from a distance on foot and coordinated the responding Palmdale units.

After a short period of time elapsed, and prior to the arrival of the first Palmdale unit, Williams moved from her position adjacent to 25th Street East and began walking towards a "Food for Less" supermarket. Deputy Paez crossed the intersection and attempted to maintain a visual of Williams as he continued his coordination of responding units via his cellular telephone.

As Williams neared the "Food for Less" supermarket a person, possibly an employee, stepped out of the front door of the business. Williams reacted by pointing what Paez still believed to be a handgun at the person and quickening her pace towards the store entrance. Paez, fearing that Williams was about to shoot the person, shouted to Williams and directed her to drop the weapon. Williams responded to Paez' commands by quickly turning and pointing the object at Paez. Deputy Paez, fearing for his life and the life of the person standing near the market , fired five rounds at Williams from his Department issued Beretta 9mm handgun. All five rounds missed Williams. She reacted by immediately dropping the object and lying on the pavement.

She was taken into custody by responding units without incident. The item she was pointing was retrieved and was determined to be a cellular telephone.

Patient Williams was interviewed at the scene. She appeared to be delusional and related that she was pretending to be a "gangster rapper" musician, shooting at people and cars. She stated that she heard Deputy Paez' commands and understood that he was a deputy sheriff. She was detained pending mental evaluation.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

Paez, Anthony- Deputy, Employee [redacted]
Palmdale Station
Off-Duty
Field Operations Region I

EMPLOYEE'S WORK HISTORY:


[redacted]

INVOLVED PATIENT:

Williams, Amelia FB/18, DOB: 08-19-90
[redacted]

Involved Suspect Criminal History:
Suspect Williams' criminal history consisted of an arrest for [redacted]
(Refer to Exhibit)

INVOLVED DEPUTY WITNESSES:

None

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESSES:

None

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS:

Deputy Anthony Paez [redacted], was interviewed on May 3, 2009, by Sergeant's Albert Maldonado and Scott Hill of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview took place at the Palmdale Station and was digitally recorded.

Deputy Paez said he was driving home after having just completing his shift at Palmdale Station. He said he was traveling East bound on Avenue S and was about to enter the driveway at the AM/PM gas station at Avenue S and 20th Street East. He saw what appeared to him to be a black male (Amelia Williams FB/ 08-19-90) walking across the street from the south west corner directly in front of a vehicle he was traveling behind. He said he saw Williams stare at the car and then stare at other cars that were driving by. He passed Williams whose back was facing him from a distance of approximately 20-25 feet. He said he saw Williams brandish a black revolver she removed from her pocket and began to point it at vehicles passing by. He parked his vehicle in the gas station and immediately exited. He called the Palmdale Station and reported his observations, describing Williams and updating the responding units with her location. He said Williams walked Northbound 25th Street East and Avenue S and stood at the North/West corner (adjacent to a McDonalds restaurant) while he watched her from the South/West corner (adjacent to the Am/Pm gas station) of the same intersection. He said she continued to point the gun while standing near the McDonalds Restaurant at vehicles which were passing by. Deputy Paez described the manner in which she was holding the weapon as the gun being in one hand with her arm extended straight out. He believed, due the aggressive manner in which she held and pointed the gun, she would either "rob" the McDonalds Restaurant or randomly shoot someone.

Deputy Paez said he had his Department issued Beretta handgun in his possession. He said Williams began walking in the parking lot directly behind the McDonalds and towards the "Food 4 Less" market located across the opposite end of the parking lot. Deputy Paez said he crossed the street to monitor her movement and to provide updates to responding units. He said as she walked through the parking lot she continued to point the handgun at vehicles within the parking lot as well as the "Food 4 Less" store front. As she pointed the handgun at the store front, an apparent employee exited the store and stood on the sidewalk just a few feet in front of the store entrance. He said Williams noticed the person (male) exiting the store and immediately pointed the gun at him and then walk aggressively towards him. Deputy Paez said he believed Williams was going to shoot at the person standing in front of "Food 4 Less." Deputy Paez remained on the sidewalk and utilized a tree for cover, identified himself as a deputy sheriff and ordered Williams to drop the gun and to get on the ground. He said Williams responded by turning towards him and pointing the gun at him. Deputy Paez said he feared for his life and immediately fired several rounds from his handgun at Williams who was approximately 75 yards away and with the "Food 4 Less" building as the background. After firing his rounds, Williams

immediately went to the ground and laid face down. He remained at his position of cover and continued to give her verbal commands. He moved his position slightly each time he gave her a command so that she would not be able to ascertain his exact position. He began to slowly advance toward her and told her to look away from him. He ordered her to lay still and to keep her hands out to the side where he could see them. He could not see her handgun as he approached. He held her at gunpoint until the assisting units arrived.

I.A.B. Note: After this interview Sergeant Hill and I listened to the recording of the telephone call Deputy Paez made to his desk when he first encountered the suspect. In the call you can hear Deputy Paez order the suspect to the ground and then advise the dispatcher the suspect was on the ground. Immediately after advising the dispatcher the suspect was on the ground you could hear Deputy Paez fire 5 gunshots then advise the dispatcher he was involved in a shooting. This somewhat contradicted Deputy Paez's statement to us that the suspect turned and pointed what appeared to be a handgun at him, requiring him to protect his life and fire his handgun towards at her. Based on this discrepancy we asked him to return for a follow-up interview to explain what occurred after he ordered the suspect to the ground. The following is a synopsis of that follow-up interview.

Deputy Paez was re-interviewed on June 23, 2009 at the Internal Affairs Office in the City Of Commerce. Deputy Paez explained after he ordered the suspect to the ground, she turned around and began to go to the ground. As she was going to the ground he advised the dispatcher the suspect was on the ground before she was actually all the way on the ground. He described her as being on her knees or possibly squatting, lowering herself to the ground then raising upward suddenly and pointing what he thought was the gun at him. Fearing for his life he fired his handgun at her. The suspect immediately went to the ground and complied with all of his orders.

IAB Note: Refer to Exhibit A, for a copy of Deputy Paez report documenting his actions, observations and use of force, under the file # 009-07753-2608-461. These interviews were digitally recorded.

SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS: On May 3, 2009 at 0520 hours, **Amelia Williams,** was interviewed on May 3, 2009, by Sergeant's Albert Maldonado and Scott Hill of the Internal Affairs Bureau. The interview took place at the Palmdale Station and was digitally recorded.

Amelia Williams said she walking from her home to the AM/PM to "bum" some cigarettes off people. As she walked she believed she saw an actor/rapper by the name of "R Kelley" driving in a vehicle at 25th Street and Avenue S. She said she likes his movies and decided to act out a scene in one of his movies (Trapped in the

Closet). She said the scene she imitated involved a character in the movie named "Twon." She said Twon had just been released from prison and pointed a handgun at persons and yelled "I"m about to shoot." She said she used her closed cellular telephone to simulate a handgun and began to point it at persons and vehicles in a threatening manner, yelling "I'm about to shoot." She said she pointed the cell phone at five or six vehicles. She said she walked west on Avenue 25th and eventually into the "Food 4 Less" parking lot.

Williams said, although no one was in the parking lot, she continued to point her cell phone in a threatening manner when she heard a deputy Sheriff come out of nowhere and order her twice to drop the gun. She said she initially thought "He was playing" as she expected lights and sirens before the arrival of police officers. She said she turned around to the sound of the command with the phone in her hand and saw what she thought was a gun being pointed at her by a man in plain clothes. She said she immediately dropped the gun and went to the ground. As she did so she heard what sounded like five rounds from a handgun being fired at her. She laid on the ground followed the deputies' orders until the other deputy sheriff's arrived. She said the cell phone was by her head as she laid on the ground.

Williams said she takes [redacted]

IAB Note: A photo depicting how she held her cell phone and simulated a handgun has been submitted with this case (Exhibit C). She acknowledged the cell phone looked like a handgun, especially in the dark. She stated that, upon reflection, she should have simulated a handgun with an open cell phone so people could see it was not a real. This interview was digitally recorded.

DEPARTMENT WITNESS STATEMENTS:

None

NON-DEPARTMENT WITNESS STATEMENTS:

[redacted] MH/[redacted] was interviewed on 08-06-09 via telephone. [redacted] who is an employee at "Food 4 Less" said he was retrieving shopping carts in the parking lot of the location which was closed for business. After placing the carts in the corrals he walked to the front door and tried to enter. When he realized the front door was locked he knocked loudly so that his manager would open the front and let him in. He stood on the sidewalk in front of the door as he awaited his manager. As he awaited his manager he heard a male voice shout "Get on the ground" several times. He then saw a black female approximately 30-50 feet away from him go to the ground. As she was going to the ground he heard approximately five gunshots. He noted she was faced

away from him and he was not able to see if she had anything in her hands. He could not see where the gunshots came from or who was shouting the commands to get down. He added that although he could not see Deputy Paez he assumed the commands were from a police officer.

I.A.B. Note: This interview was digitally recorded.

SUSPECT'S INJURIES:

None

DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

None

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

(4) Cartridge Cases, (1) Fired Bullet, Deputy Paez's Duty Weapon (9mm Beretta).

INVESTIGATORS OBSERVATIONS:

No observations.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Department issued 9mm Beretta Handgun.

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECTS:

Simulated handgun.

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

Bullet Strike to the front fascia beam of "Food 4 Less."

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR and CHARGES FILED:

Charges Filed: The patient was detained for a [redacted].
No charges were filed.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:

The incident during the hours of darkness and the location was illuminated by street lights.